



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Hunters & Hunted

Synopsis

The animal kingdom can be divided into two groups: predators and prey. Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals for their food, while prey are hunted and eaten by predators. Animals from both these groups make use of special features to capture or evade the other. Learn all about how dangerous the animal kingdom really is, and how every day is a life-and-death struggle for survival.

Writing style

Hunters & Hunted has been designed with the needs of early readers and reluctant readers in mind. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on each page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information. There is a brief glossary in the back of the book, which will aid young readers in developing the tools of research and analysis.

Photographic style

Hunters & Hunted uses photographs that bring the viewer close to the subject that is being discussed. They are evocative images that clearly convey the dynamic nature of animals in the wild. These photographs also have the advantage that the image is static, giving the reader the opportunity to explore the image and look at the subject matter and its features in detail. The photographs are also strongly composed and clearly printed with bright strong colours to increase the appeal to visual readers. Readers can explore how photographs are used to convey messages.

Study notes

Themes:

- Descriptive words
- Species
- Predation and survival
- Habitats
- Adaptation
- Food and predators
- Lifecycle

Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading *Hunters & Hunted*:

- Brainstorm what students know about animals and how they hunt.
- What is their first response when they look at the cover of the book?
- How do they think animals survive in the wild?
- Ask the students if they have ever seen a predator/prey relationship at work. What can they recall about each animal's behaviour?

While reading *Hunters & Hunted*:

- Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
- Ask the students to keep a table list of the features that help predators and prey to survive. For each group, in one column put the feature and in the second column write how the feature helps the animal.

After reading *Hunters & Hunted*:

- Ask the students to reflect on the words they would use to describe predators and prey and the words that have been used in the book. Ask them to draw up a list of words that can be used to describe predators and prey.

Curriculum Theme: Critical and Creative Thinking

After reading *Hunters & Hunted* ask the students the following questions:

- What are the ways that predators capture their prey?
- What are the ways that prey animals escape from predators?
- Can an animal be both predator and prey?
- What is an apex predator?
- Are humans predators or prey? Are they an apex predator?

Curriculum link: ICT Capability

After reading *Hunters & Hunted*:

- Organise the class into groups. Assign each group a predator/prey pair from the book and ask them to research online and answer the following questions: Where in the world do these animals live? In what kind of habitats? How does the predator catch the prey? How does the prey avoid the predator? Is either animal in danger of becoming extinct? Is their chosen predator eaten by other animals? If so, what animals, and how? Does their chosen prey animal hunt and eat other animals? If so, what animals, and how?
- Ask the children to look for and print images relating to their predator/prey pair. Specifically, look for examples of the features that each animal uses to catch/avoid the other.
- Ask each group to create a poster collage. Ask them to attach the images they found and to write a short sentence detailing what animals they are, where they are found and what features they use to catch/avoid the other. All members of the group then take turns presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

Curriculum Theme: Personal and Social Capability

After reading *Hunters & Hunted*:

- Organise the class into two groups. In one group, ask the students to work as a team to construct a word finder puzzle. Ask each student to suggest an appropriate word about predators and prey using words they have learned from the book. (e.g. talon, smell, agile etc). Once completed, print copies for the other group to complete.

- In the second group, students should work as a team to create a trivia bingo game. Ask each student to suggest a fact they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class.

Find out more

- <http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season4/prey/facts.cfm>
- <http://www.allaboutanimals.org.uk/PK-Hunting.asp>
- <http://www.exploringnature.org/graphics/foodwebs/pred-prey%20game.pdf>

Marketing and promotion

Hunters and Hunted is a one-off title, though it shares many elements with the successful *CloseUp* series. This series includes *Honey Bees CloseUp*, *Horses CloseUp*, *Butterflies CloseUp*, *Spiders CloseUp*, *Wolves CloseUp*, *Human Body CloseUp*, *Elephants CloseUp* and *Sharks CloseUp*.